(c) Manufacture of Rubber goods (Dipped Latex Products) Industry has been added to the schedule of Village Industries under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

(d) For the development of village industries, the Government of India provides financial assistance for working capital and capital expenditure at concessional rate of interest. Loans for the village industries carry an interest of 4 per cent. Further, interest subsidy is also provided on the bank finance to cover the difference between the rate of interest charged on the loans to Khadi industries by the KVIC and the Banks. A more liberalised pattern of assistance is drafted for identified hill, border and tribal areas and for SC & ST where grant element in capital expenditure is as high as 75 per cent. Some State Governments have also extended sale tax exemption to the village industries products.

(e) During the last three years, production of village industries in Gujarat under the purview of Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the funds disbursed to them are as follows:—

Year	Production in vlaue (Rs. in crores)	Funds disbursed (Rs. in crores)		
		Grant	Loan	Total
1983-84	33.94	0·19	1·40	1·59
1984-85	27.62	0 01	0.77	0·78
1985-86	36.38	0.08	0.64	0·72

Statement

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 has been amended recently. According to the amended Act, the village industry is now redefined to mean 'any industry located in a rural area the population of which does not exceed ten thousand or such other figure as the Central Government may specify from time to time, which produce any goods or renders any services with or without the use of power and in which the fixed capital investment per head of an artisan or a worker does not exceed fifteen thousand rupees and such other sum, as may, by notification in the official gazette, be specified from time to time by the Central Government. The reconstituted Commission as per the amended Act, as against five members earlier, will have ten members including six members representing the six geographical zones, two experts in science and technology, economics, rural industries or technical education and training and two ex-officio members *i.e.* the Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Adviser of the Commission who will not have the right to vote. The new Commission will have a term of five years as against three years earlier.

Proposal to Link Wage Revisions in Public Sector Units with Productivity

950. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link the future wage revisions in the public sector units with productivity;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received charter of demands, memoranda, etc., from various Trade Unions in the matter during the period 1st January, 1985 to 15th July, 1987; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof, and whether Government

have consulted and arrived at an agreement with the trade unions or their representatives in the matter; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) According to the wage policy finalised in January, 1987, substantial portion of increase in wage bills consequent on wage settlements are required to be absorbed by way of increase in productivity and other measures of cost reduction. It also envisages that the targets of internal generation of resources and additional resource mobilisation should not get effected in any way. Surplus labour is also to be required to be reduced in a phased manner. The existing output norms are also to be reviewed so as to achieve improved aggregate efficiency.

(c) and (d) Charters of Demands are submitted by the workers unions to their respective Management and not to Government. All the wage settlements are finalised by the Management in consultation with the administrative Ministry, Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Ministry of Finance.

Soft drinks

951. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI BIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent Press reports which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 19th July, 1987 highlighting the manner in which the soft drinks manufacturers in the country are fleecing the consumer by charging a very high price for their products; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report.

(b) There is no statutory control on the prices of soft drinks. However, soft drinks' industry is one of the industries covered by the delicensing scheme introduced by the Government in March 1985 and it is anticipated that with the possible creation of additional capacities, normal market forces will operate to the advantage of the consumer.

Sick industrial units

952. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "One lakh sick units in India" as reported in the Indian Express dated 13th July, 1987;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to help revive the sick units; and

(d) if so, how and by when the sick industrial units will be made viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) To meet the problem of Industrial sickness in the country, the Government have taken various steps. The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening of the monitoring system and to arrest industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in